The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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I know no such thing as genius; it is nothing but labor and diligence.—Hogarth.

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WHOLE NO. 1116. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 25.

A. F. of L. Council's Decision To Charter American Federation Of Government Employees

National Federation of Federal Employees Invaded Jurisdiction of Twenty National and International Unions—Withdrawal from A. F. of L. Not Justified—New Organization of Federal Employees Necessary to Protect Interests of Government Workers.

Washington.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made public the statement of the Executive Council of the Federation authorizing the organizing and chartering of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Executive Council's Statement

The Council's statement follows:

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor gave careful consideration to the application of the reorganization committee and a petition signed by numerous Government employees for a charter for a new national union of Federal employees.

"The Council was impressed with the fact that the establishment of a new national union for Government employees involved grave questions of policy and procedure.

"Unquestionably there are many thousands of Government employees who desire to be organized and to establish and maintain affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

"They cannot do this because the National Federation of Federal Employees, which had been chartered by the American Federation of Labor, has withdrawn and seceded from association and affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

Charter for New Union Approved

"The Executive Council is always reluctant to establish a new organization in a field which is already covered by jurisdiction granted an international or national union.

"However, the Executive Council, realizing that certain important facts, circumstances and conditions must be considered in the application for a charter for a new national union, is of the opinion that no precedent will be violated and no trade-union ethics will be transgressed by granting the application made for a charter for said new national union.

Jurisdiction Rights Protected

"The Executive Council, therefore, approves the application for a charter for a new national union of Federal employees, providing such understandings and agreements may be reached with the officers and members of the new national union which will preserve and protect the jurisdictional rights of all other national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"The Executive Council, therefore, refers the application for this new national union of Federal employees to the executive officers with full authority to act and to grant a charter to the new national union when, in the judgment of said executive officers, such action should be taken.

"This decision of the Executive Council is based upon the following reasons:

Jurisdiction Invaded

"1. The National Federation of Federal Employees, having seceded from the American Federation of Labor, is extending its jurisdiction, soliciting and accepting into membership individuals in the employ of the Federal Government over whom it has no jurisdiction.

"These members clearly belong to other organizations chartered by and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

"In the pursuit of this unethical policy the National Federation of Federal Employees has transgressed upon the jurisdiction of more than twenty national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"In such a situation it becomes the duty of the American Federation of Labor to protect the rights of national and international unions which have remained loyal to the American Federation of Labor.

"To remain inactive and thus allow a seceding organization to transgress upon the jurisdictional authority of other national and international unions would mean that the American Federation of Labor has failed to do its duty.

"Self-preservation and the protection of the organized labor movement demand that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor create a new national union of Federal employees chartered and recognized by the American Federation of Labor as the only national union which has jurisdiction over Federal employees eligible to membership.

"The necessity for this action is grounded in the firm belief of the Executive Council that the one outstanding reason, if not the chief reason, for the unjustifiable withdrawal of the National Federation of Federal Employees from the American Federation of Labor was that the officers of this seceding organization believed they could more effectively transgress the jurisdictional rights of national and international unions by withdrawing from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

Withdrawal Unjustified

"2. The National Federation of Federal Employees on December 1, 1931, withdrew their affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and therefore is recognized as a seceding organization.

"In the opinion of the Executive Council, this withdrawal was without justification and for no valid reason.

"Notwithstanding the repeated appeals of the officers of the American Federation of Labor to the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees to meet and confer with the Council for the purpose of bringing about a settlement of any alleged differences, the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees refused to do so even though that organization was facing a critical period in its history.

Constitution and Laws Violated

"3. The withdrawal of the National Federation of Federal Employees from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor was brought about by the officers through misrepresentation and in violation of the constitution and laws of the organization.

Relations with A. F. of L. Severed

"4. The National Federation of Federal Employees, having withdrawn from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, and its officers having announced that they would continue to oppose re-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and would refuse to cooperate with the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor, there is no economic relationship between that organization and the American Federation of Labor.

New National Union Necessary

"5. Because of these declarations made by the present officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees, there is no hope of bringing about a re-affiliation of the National Federation of Federal Employees with the American Federation of Labor, even though thousands of Federal employees, both by local units and individually, have expressed their wish to be associated with the bona fide American Labor Movement and to be affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"Because they have so indicated by petition and otherwise, the Executive Council is of the opinion that a new national union should be formed so that these workers may realize their personal hopes and desires to be organized and to be associated with the trade-union movement.

Assistance for Federal Employees

"6. The Executive Council is of the opinion that the proper economic help and support cannot be extended to Federal employees by the American Federation of Labor unless said Federal employees are associated with and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

"This fact was clearly demonstrated during the recent session of Congress, when wage cuts were imposed and privileges gained through the efforts of the organization were taken away.

"The American Federation of Labor gave in full measure its support, but this support was not backed or accepted by the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees which had seceded from association with the American Federation of Labor, which fact had been widely advertised by the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees and which had operated to the great disadvantage of the members of that organization.

Charter Authorized

"7. The Federal Employees who have suffered from wage cuts and the loss of hard-earned privileges are smarting under a sense of injustice and are desirous of utilizing the powerful forces of organized labor to regain what they have lost.

"For these and other reasons the Executive Council authorizes the resident officers to issue a charter to a new national union of Federal employees, when, in the judgment of said resident officers, such action should be taken."

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By JOHN L. LEWIS
President, United Mine Workers of America

On this great and momentous Labor Day of 1932, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the hosts of organized labor everywhere.

In the industrial year just past labor has been called upon to withstand more than its just share of sacrifice and hardship that flow from the present era of depression and economic discomfort.

In all of the history of this great land, we are now experiencing the minimum of employment and the maximum of unemployment with all the misery and woe that accompany such a condition. Opportunity to work and earn a living for their families has been all but denied to the toilers of this land. Such an unfortunate and deplorable situation places a terrific strain upon the steadfastness of our people.

I congratulate the members of labor's ranks upon their coolness and their adherence to the aims, the purposes and the principles of the labor movement which they have exercised throughout the past year.

We marvel sometimes at the splendid degree of self-restraint that has characterized the life of the workers during the past hectic year. Those who adhere so loyally to the fundamental principles of the organized labor movement have refused to listen to the false preachings of demagogues and dangerous prophets. They have turned a deaf ear to those who would either destroy or turn our great organization from its true purpose and make it a means for their own personal profit and advantage. They have refused to heed the advice of those who would destroy us.

For this reason, I extend my congratulations to the men and women of labor's ranks.

Let us continue along that safe and sane pathway in the year that lies ahead, hoping, praying and believing that better times and better things are in store for us.

Stick to the ship. Do not falter. Continue in the future as you have in the past to give loyal support to your union and to the foundation upon which it is built.

Let there be harmony of purpose, of thought, of action, of support. Let's all stand together and continue the great struggle for progress, which will never cease until labor has achieved the goal of its ambition.

MORRISON WILL OPEN RADIO TALKS ON LABOR

Washington.—The first of a series of ten radio addresses on current labor problems will be given here on Sunday, September 4, at 12 o'clock noon, Eastern standard time, by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor. The lectures are under the general auspices of the Advisory Council on Radio in Education, with the cooperation of the Workers' Education Bureau of America and the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Morrison's subject will be "The Closed and Open Shop."

The addresses will continue for ten Sundays over the nation-wide network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, will deliver the address on September 11. He is scheduled to speak on "Wages and Hours."

LABOR DAY, 1932

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

Each of our national holidays symbolizes an ideal, but there is only one national holiday which is emblematical of Labor—Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

This is the day consecrated by legislative enactment and proclamation to the men and women of daily toil upon whose productive power rest the foundations of government.

Because I feel so keenly, so intensely, the tremendous significance of the problems with which we as a nation and we as an organized labor movement are confronted, I view the approach of Labor Day, 1932, with deep concern lest Labor, under the stress and strain of the trying years since 1929, in the struggle for bread for the hungry and work for the workless, may lose some of the vision of the high purpose, mission and lofty ideals with which it was conceived and born.

Twenty years ago the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor submitted pertinent observations regarding Labor Day observance. These observatons were accepted and are as apropos now as when originally made. I quote therefrom:

> **"Labor Day belongs to the working people of America. It is for them to determine its value and significance. Those outside the labor movement test its strength and virility by the way in which Labor Day is observed. Their test is justified by the fact that the power of the labor movement consists in its appeal to the hearts, minds and wills of the workers. Rouse the working people to a sense of their rights and interests, and the labor movement becomes an irresistible power for their realization.**
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> **"In the labor movement as in every human endeavor we become familiar with the heart forces and ideals that brought the movement into existence, and sometimes forget that these spiritual forces must be revived and nourished or they wither and die. Some labor organizations have fallen into this error. They have abandoned regular Labor Day demonstrations, parades, meetings, addresses in the belief that such expenditures of time, effort, and money are wasteful. This is a most serious mistake.**
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> **"Such labor demonstrations are not wasteful and they do pay even if only through publicity for the cause of Labor. Men and women marching shoulder to shoulder typify impressively the purposefulness and the unity of the labor movement. They are a physical demonstration of devotion to principle—a proof that none can fail to understand. Observance of the day is a means of educating public thought and agents for molding public opinion in regard to the principles and purposes of the labor movement."**

I most earnestly and solemnly call upon State federations of labor, city central bodies, local unions and their individual members, friends and sympathizers to make observance of the coming Labor Day demonstrate to the whole Nation the strength and importance of the labor movement, and to make the spirit of the day of such a nature that every worker shall appreciate more keenly the value of his union and shall be ready to perform his duties with greater enthusiasm and more perfect understanding.

The spirit of fellowship and the brotherhood of man are the life of the labor movement. If this life be not nourished, the whole will become a dead thing.

Labor Day typifies a movement for life and humanity.

Do not pervert it—do not permit it to be perverted or diverted from its high ideals, its lofty purpose.

Make this Labor Day, 1932, the most impressive demonstration of Labor's unity, strength, vision, high ideals; of its renewed determination to continue to be in the future, as it has so forcefully been in the past, the defender and protector of the men and women who toil.

HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day, 1932, is the thirty-ninth annual celebration of Labor Day as a legal national holiday and the fifty-first anniversary of the first local Labor Day celebration.

P. J. McGuire, the founder of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and for many years a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, originated the Labor Day idea.

At a meeting of the New York City Central Labor Union held on May 8, 1882, McGuire stressed the propriety of setting aside one day in the year as a general holiday for the working people. He suggested that it be called Labor Day.

The Central Labor Union adopted the idea and organized a Labor Day parade and festival on the first Monday in September, 1882.

The 1884 convention of the American Federation of Labor endorsed the proposal for a national Labor Day holiday by unanimously adopting the following resolution introduced by A. C. Cameron, a delegate from the Chicago Trades and Labor Alliance:

> **"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling, or nationality."**

Organized labor carried on its demand for Labor Day so effectively that soon many municipal councils and State legislatures made it a legal holiday.

Oregon was the first State to make Labor Day a State holiday; the Oregon Labor Day law was signed by the Governor on February 21, 1887. During 1887 the legislatures of Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York also made Labor Day a State holiday. In 1889, Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania enacted Labor Day laws; in 1890, Iowa and Ohio; in 1891, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington; in 1892, Alabama, Louisiana, Utah and Virginia; in 1893, California, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Texas and Wisconsin.

In the meantime the officials of the American Federation of Labor endeavored to have the Congress of the United States make Labor Day a national holiday.

Shortly after the Fifty-third Congress convened in 1893, Senator James H. Kyle of South Dakota, Representative Amos J. Cummings of New York, and Representative Robert E. De Forest of Connecticut introduced bills making Labor Day a legal holiday.

The Cummings bill was reported favorably by the House Committee on Labor, of which Lawrence E. McGann of Illinois was chairman. The Committee did not report the De Forest bill.

The Kyle bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, of which Senator Kyle was chairman. Following is the text of the Kyle bill:

> **"A Bill Making Labor Day a Legal Holiday.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first Monday in September in each year, being the day celebrated and known as labor's holiday, is hereby made a legal public holiday, in the same manner as Christmas, the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, and the 4th day of July are now by law public holidays."**

The Senate passed the Kyle bill on June 24, 1894, the House passed it on June 26, in place of the Cummings bill, and President Cleveland signed it on June 28.

In his annual report to the 1894 convention of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation, announced Labor's victory with the following brief statement:

> **"National Labor Day.—It affords me pleasure to be able to report that the demand made by the American Federation of Labor for making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday passed Congress and was made a law on June 28, 1894."**

All hail to Labor Day, 1932!

Unemployment and Unequal Incomes Hit by Federal Council of Churches

New York.—Unemployment and the unequal distribution of income are condemned as against social justice and Christian principles in the Labor Sunday Message for 1932 issued by the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

In the field of social and economic reconstruction the Council urges highest possible wages, extension of minimum wage laws, collective bargaining, cooperative ownership, and social insurance against accidents, sickness, old age, and unemployment.

The Message said, in part:

Unemployment

"The thing that really matters in any industrial system is what it actually does to human beings. For this reason no society that would call itself Christian or even civilized can tolerate such unemployment as we now see in our economic life.

"Unemployment terribly increases the strains which even in so-called prosperous times bring many to the breaking point. Homes are threatened and broken. There is more overcrowding as families double up in quarters which do not give adequate privacy. Resources are exhausted. Morale is undermined. Physical and moral resistance is impaired.

"Those who depend upon income from savings suffer from reduced interest, rent, or dividends and, in many cases, this reduction has now gone to the vanishing point. But workers who lose their jobs are obviously more disastrously affected than the average investor since their margin of security is smaller.

Menace of Unequal Incomes

"Religious prophets have always denounced the gross inequality between the incomes, on the one hand, of those who toil in factory, mine, farm and office, and of those, on the other hand, who by inheritance, or privilege of ownership, or speculative investment derive an income not earned by actual service.

"Inequality is a peril to the rich because it tempts them to a narrowing of their sympathies and a false scale of values.

"It is a curse to the poor because it means misery for underpaid, irregularly employed workers, crowded in unsanitary tenements, shacks or company houses, exposed to the constant fear of sickness unprovided for and of old age insecure.

High Standards for All

"Our economic resources, our progress in invention and the arts, our social inheritance should now make possible a worthy standard of living for all if the organization of production and distribution were directed toward that end.

Unequal Wealth Distribution

"It is becoming more and more clear that the principles of our religion and the findings of the social sciences point in the same direction.

"Economists now call attention to the fact that the present distribution of wealth and income which is so unbrotherly in the light of Christian ethics, is also unscientific in that it does not furnish sufficient purchasing power to the masses to balance consumption and production in our machine age.

"Among the measures which in our time may advance the cause of human welfare in the direction of that ideal social order which we call the Kingdom of God, are intelligent planning and direction of industry, credit and finance for the common good; an extension of minimum wage laws, and above the minimum wage the highest possible wage as distribution becomes fairer and the productivity of industry increases; collective bargaining; cooperative ownership; and social insurance against accidents, sickness, old age and unemployment."

BENEFITS OF MACHINES SHOULD EXTEND TO ALL

Presbyterian Labor Day Message Says Machinery Used for Exclusive Profit of Those Who Own and Control Industry Is Unjust.

New York.—The social menace of labor-displacing machinery used by those who own and control industry for their own exclusive benefit and against the interests of working men and women is declared to be against the principles of Christianity and a menace to the present industrial system by Dr. John McDowell, secretary of the Committee on Social and Industrial Relations of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, in a Labor Day message to the churches of that denomination.

On the social dangers and possibilities of machine production, Dr. McDowell says, in part:

"The machine is man's greatest invention and is his greatest servant. It lifts drudgery from his shoulders, shortens his work-day, increases his wages, diversifies his life, raises his standard of living, takes him to see the world, expands his knowledge—in a word, creates for him a new world. Notwithstanding these notable contributions, there are certain very concrete and definite dangers in this machine age.

Importance of Human Beings

"One danger is that the machine may come to be thought of as possessing more importance than the man who operates it. Dependent as we are upon machine production for many of our necessaries and comforts, we must never forget that we are even more dependent, and always will be, upon our fellow-men. There is no prospect that machines will ever be invented to regulate machinery, thus relieving man of his task. There is no substitute for man, even in a machine age.

Unemployment Breeds Class War

"Another danger is that the machine may become a breeder of fear and class-war. American industry can easily make in eight months all that it can dispose of in twelve. We have business stagnation today because there is more of everything than can be sold at a profit. Overproduction means curtailed employment and reduced wages, and reduced earnings mean lessened purchasing power.

"The choking down of industry means idleness and unemployment, and idleness and unemployment mean fear and class-war. It is evident now that the idleness of men who are able and willing to work is the most dangerous surplus that can exist in any country. Unemployment is not only a maladjustment of social machinery, it is a blot on social intelligence and the curse of American industrial life.

Use Machines for Benefit of All

"With all the benefits and fears of the machine age conceded, what is there to be done? Shall we scrap the machine in order to avoid the danger that the machine may scrap us? This is the question men are asking today with greater eagerness than ever before. This question must be faced: it cannot be ignored and it must not be evaded. The suggestion to scrap the machine is not only unwise, it is impossible.

"There is nothing wrong with the machine, as such. It is not the machine that is the source of all our troubles today, but the man behind it; the spirit that dominates it, the ideal that controls it. The machine is not only here to stay, but we believe it ought to stay. We cannot and we will not go back to the ancient hand-made civilizations of the East. We must find a way to use the machine for the benefit of every man, woman and child in America, and in the world."

To bring machine industry under the control of Christian principles and make machinery a benefit to all the people, Dr. McDowell urges greater efficiency in production, greater equity in the distribution of the earnings of industry, greater participation in the management of industry, and the abolition of unemployment and poverty.

Christianize Industry

"While the Church cannot advocate a particular method of dealing with the present economic crisis," Dr. McDowell concluded, "it can test all plans and practices by the spirit and teachings of Christ and it can make clear what ends are desirable in an economic order that is Christian. Among these ends are economic security for all and a conscious approach to that economic liberty and equality which will make Christian brotherhood a reality."

GREEN'S LABOR DAY SPEECH GOES OVER RADIO NETWORK

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The Labor Day address which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will deliver here on Monday, September 5, will be broadcast over the network of the National Broadcasting Company. Mr. Green will speak at West View Park, at 3 p. m. Eastern daylight saving time, which is 2 p. m. Central daylight saving time, and 1 p. m. Mountain daylight saving time.

The address will be preceded by a monster Labor Day parade participated in by the entire organized labor movement of Pittsburgh. The celebration is under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union.

MORRISON'S LABOR DAY TALK TO BE DELIVERED OVER RADIO

Washington.—The Labor Day address which Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor makes here on Monday, September 5, will be broadcast over the network of the National Broadcasting Company. Mr. Morrison will speak at 12-12:30 p. m., Eastern standard time.

Maine Federation of Labor Establishes Monthly Paper

Augusta, Me.—The Maine State Federation of Labor has established an official monthly paper, "The Labor News."

"Today the labor press constitutes one of the distinguishing characteristics of the modern labor movement," declares Clarence R. Burgess, secretary-treasurer and legislative agent of the State Federation, in announcing the action of the Federation in starting the paper.

"One of the prime purposes of our trade union movement," he added, "is to guide the membership so that the largest possible number at the same time can move forward to accomplish a common and definite purpose. This unity of purpose is impossible unless the membership possesses a practical knowledge of trade union principles and policies."

To aid in achieving this unity, Mr. Burgess said, would be the major function of "The Labor News."

Hutcheson Commands Labor Bureau of Republican Party

Washington.—William L. Hutcheson, president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, was appointed to head the campaign labor bureau of the Republican National Committee.

Green Explains Organization of New Federal Employees Union

President of A. F. of L., Presenting Charter to American Federation of Government Employees, Declares That National Federation of Federal Employees Is Henceforth Outside the Organized Labor Movement.

Washington.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, presented an A. F. of L. charter to the officials of the American Federation of Government Employees at a meeting in the assembly room of the A. F. of L. Headquarters here.

In addition to officials and members of the new organization, a number of officials of national and international labor unions, local labor organizations and other representatives of organized labor were present at the ceremony.

Green's Statement

In presenting the charter, Mr. Green made the following statement as to the reasons for organizing the American Federation of Government Employees:

"When it was publicly stated, during the early part of November, 1931, that the executive officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees were taking steps to withdraw from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, I appealed to these representatives requesting them to refrain from taking such a serious and far-reaching action until they at least met with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of discussing their difficulties and presenting their alleged grievances.

"This appeal was made because withdrawal meant injury to thousands of Federal employees and because there was no real justification for such drastic and extreme action.

"Notwithstanding this request and the appeals which I repeatedly made to the executive officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees to settle any differences which existed in accordance with the principles of organized labor, in the conference room and with men who had been granted authority to administer the affairs of the American Federation of Labor between conventions, my request was refused and the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees advised me they would not meet with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Misrepresentation Charged

"It is the opinion of the officers of the American Federation of Labor and of thousands of Federal employees that the officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees accomplished their purpose to withdraw from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor by violating the laws of their organization and through misrepresentation and fraud.

"The fact that thousands of Federal Employees voted against separation from the American Federation of Labor showed that there was great opposition to the steps which the executive officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees had taken. This was true even though the membership of the National Federation of Federal Employees had not been informed of the merits of the alleged dispute or of the earnest appeals which the president of the American Federation of Labor had made for a conference so that any differences which existed could be considered and settled.

Opposition to A. F. of L.

"During all the months which have intervened since the withdrawal of the National Federation of Federal Employees took place last November no inclination has been manifested by the executive officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees to confer with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor or to propose reaffiliation upon any basis.

"For this reason the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has regarded the attitude of the executive officers of the National Federation of Federal Employees as opposed to a return of the organization to the place it formerly occupied in association with the organized labor movement and with the national and international unions which compose it.

Executive Council Sanctions New Union

"Based upon this understanding, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at a meeting held recently, authorized the executive officers to grant a charter to a new national union, recognized as having jurisdiction over Federal employees and to function in the field from which the National Federation of Federal Employees had withdrawn.

"This action of the Executive Council was taken in response to requests made by thousands of Federal employees who had signed petitions requesting the Executive Council to grant a charter to a new national union of Government employees.

Charted Is Granted

"Following the decision of the Executive Council to authorize the executive officers to organize a new national union of Government employees more than twenty-six local unions have been organized and have given assurance that they will all become a part of a new national union.

"In conformity with this action and pursuant to the decision of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, a new national union has been formed and a charter of affiliation has been granted to this new national union according it jurisdiction over Government employees eligible to membership.

"This new national union is the only one that will be recognized by the American Federation of Labor as clothed with authority to organize and represent Government employees not covered by the jurisdiction already granted other national and international unions.

"From this date the National Federation of Federal Employees will be regarded as a seceding organization, without standing in the organized labor movement, outside and separate from the organized labor movement of the Nation.

"The American Federation of Labor will give a full measure of support to the new national union thus formed and its members will be represented in the councils of the American Federation of Labor.

New Union Named

"The name of the new national union is the American Federation of Government Employees.

"All Government employees who are eligible to join this new national union will be welcomed into membership and we pledge to them the support and assistance of the American Federation of Labor in all the efforts which they may put forth to bring about a restoration of pay, the rights and the privileges taken from them at the last session of Congress, to secure the enactment of legislation originated and introduced into Congress for the purpose of protecting and promoting their economic and social interests.

"All the force and power of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated units will be extended in an effort to establish and strengthen the new national union throughout the entire jurisdiction granted it in the charter issued to it by the American Federation of Labor."

Officials Accept Charter

At the conclusion of Mr. Green's statement, brief talks accepting the charter were made by the following officials of the new organization: David R. Glass, president; John R. Shaw, first vice president; Mrs. Sophie J. Bergner, second vice president; William J. Ryan, chairman, Local and Affiliated Bodies Committee; and E. Claude Babcock, chairman, Education Committee.

Addresses of Welcome

Speeches welcoming the American Federation of Government Employees to affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and pledging full support to the organization were made by Leo George, president, National Federation of Post Office Clerks; John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer, Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor; Frank J. Coleman, secretary, Washington Central Labor Union; Edward Roche, president, Washington Allied Printing Trades Council; John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor; C. L. Rosemund, president, International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions; Mary Anderson, director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor; Ethel M. Smith, Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Elizabeth Christman, secretary-treasurer, National Women's Trade Union League of America; John M. Torka, second vice president, National Federation of Post Office Clerks; and Burd W. Payne, former president, Union No. 2, National Federation of Federal Employees.

LABOR DAY, 1932

By FRANK MORRISON
Secretary, American Federation of Labor

The masses of the people have suffered intensely from the blight of the nation-wide depression which is now nearing its fourth winter.

A review of the proceedings of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor and of our affiliated organizations will reveal that the trade union movement has insistently reiterated that labor policies in the operation of modern industry have been uneconomic and unsound.

Organized labor has not only constantly protested the injustice involved to the victims of this uneconomic system, but has warned of the menace to the perpetuation of our Republic and its free institutions in the unchecked spread of unemployment.

The program presented by the American Federation of Labor and our affiliated organizations would have established order and method in the operation of modern industry and prevented the present social and industrial chaos.

Unfair and antagonistic employers have ignored and frustrated by every means at hand, including the abuse of judicial power and the debasement of the courts of justice, the struggle of trade unions to put into operation a system of industry which would recognize the rights of labor.

With few exceptions, this has been the policy of what is known as "big business," the expanding of which through merging of interlocking financial interests has placed in its hands the power to influence and control business and political policies in our country.

Present conditions reflect the stupendous stupidity of those responsible for the management and direction of industrial affairs of our country.

Notwithstanding the odds confronting our organizations they have stemmed the trend toward demoralization of the standards of labor which it has taken years of struggle to establish.

In industries that have maintained a more normal degree of operation, particularly in the building industry, our trade unions have stood as a bulwark against the very determined effort of some employers to take advantage of the widespread condition of unemployment to lengthen hours and reduce wages.

The American Federation of Labor will continue to urge the adoption of its program to meet present requirements, the most important features of which briefly are:

Shorten the hours of labor to the extent necessary to absorb unemployment.

Increase wages to maintain the purchasing power of all the people to accommodate their needs.

Advance planning of production requirements to spread employment over slack periods in each industry.

Establishment and coordination of Federal and State employment agencies.